# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3617
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2008
ALLOCATION OF BLOCKS FOR EXPLORATION TO GSPCL
Patel Shri Harilal Madhavjibhai

**Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has made a request for allocation of blocks for exploration of Oil and Gas to the Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd.(GSPCL) on nomination basis in the areas of Saurashtra and Kutch Regions of the State; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS(SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) Yes Sir,

(b) Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), launched in 1997, the Government of India adopted international competitive bidding system for offering acreages for exploration and production of oil & gas in the country. NELP has provided a level playing field wherein bids are invited from private and public sector companies-both Indian as well as foreign.

Even National Oil Companies, viz. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Ltd. (OIL) etc. are not awarded blocks on nomination basis as they have to compete with other private/public sector companies under NELP. Therefore, it would not be possible to allocate any block to Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) on nomination basis.